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# Blackdown Hills

Celebrating 25 years

Est 2004

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Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Issue No 134 April 2016

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MEMBERS of the Blackdown Hills Transition Group (pictured) have been swapping seeds at local farmer's markets to help bring a little life back into their gardens.

The cost effective initiative asks those of the green finger persuasion to bring along some of their seeds they are unable to plant and allow others the chance to use them.

To read more about the work of the Blackdown Hills Transition Group see their regular column on page 5

## AONB launch anniversary celebrations

THIS year is a special year for the Blackdown Hills as it marks the 25th anniversary of designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This celebratory year formally kicks off this month with a heritage themed launch event at one of the hills' World War Two airfields.

Saturday, April 23rd will see the official launch of the AONB's year long 25th anniversary at Churchinford.

The morning session will include talks on the history of the Blackdown Hills AONB and an introduction to the Scheduled Monuments at RAF Culmhead, a fighter station operational during the Second World War.

After lunch the afternoon will be spent taking part in a guided walk around part of the airfield.

The event is free but booking is essential as places are limited.

The event will start and finish at Churchinford village hall.

For more information: Contact the

Blackdown Hills 680681/blackdown-hills@devon.gov.uk

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# Volunteers tackle war on litter

VOLUNTEERS fought the war on litter last month and came out tops after collecting more than 64 sacks of rubbish from roadsides in and around Otterford.

In two hours, the team of 24 litter pickers also found five car tyres, seven hubcaps and other miscellaneous items. After sorting through

the rubbish, collectors found that a vast majority of the rubbish came from fast food outlets and supermarkets, including 53 drinks cartons.

Organisers of the litter pick would like to thank Whitbread PLC (who own Costa Coffee) for the donation of litter-pickers and hoops and Taunton Deane Borough Council

and McDonalds, Taunton, for donating litter sacks. Thanks also went to Tony Beaumont, for helping to transport the litter and recycling to the Chard recycling centre.

The next "Parish Litter Pick" is on Saturday, November 26th 2016 - meeting at the Parish Hall, in Bishopswood (TA20 3RS) at 9.30am.



Some of the volunteers litter pickers raring to go (left: some of the rubbish collected)

## Taunton captured 'in time' in new exhibition

LIFE in Taunton, its people and places, are captured in time for an exhibition of watercolours which has opened at The Museum of Somerset.

Harry Frier (1849–1921) is one of Somerset's best known artists. His paintings document life in and around Taunton during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Frier moved to Somerset in 1883 and began painting watercolours of local scenes. He was a prolific worker and at least 600 of his paintings survive.

'Captured in Time: The Art of Harry Frier' has been curated from collections cared for by the South West Heritage Trust and features more than 30 of

the artist's works. It includes scenes of Taunton, among them views of Tone Bridge, Fore Street, Church Square and Bath Place. Frier's most ambitious painting, 'The Assize Fair' is also included together with a depiction of the fire that destroyed Pollard's timber yard in 1889. There are also scenes of the surrounding countryside in villages including Creech St Michael and Bishops Lydeard. The exhibition is in the museum at Taunton Castle, which was also the subject of several of Frier's paintings.

South West Heritage Trust Curator Bethan Murray said: "Harry Frier was a prolific watercolour artist

who worked in Somerset for more than 30 years. "His watercolours of Taunton and the countryside around it have preserved for us a world that is lost."

Frier moved to Somerset in 1883 with his Somerset-born wife Kate Dyer. He relied on commissions to earn a living but with the rise of popular photography in the early 1900s sales of his work began to decline. After Kate died in 1913 his health deteriorated and in 1917 he entered the Taunton Workhouse. He died there in 1921, aged 71, and is buried in the churchyard at Creech St Michael.

'Captured in Time: The Art of Harry Frier' includes work belonging to Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society. It runs until October 22nd. Entry is free.

To further explore the town's history, including Harry Frier's depictions of it, Tom Mayberry, Chief Executive of the South West Heritage Trust, is giving a talk entitled 'The Changing Face of Taunton 1750–2015.'

The talk is at the museum on Wednesday, May 4th at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £9.50 available from the museum on 01823 255088 or online via museumof-somerset.org.uk.

The museum is part of the South West Heritage Trust, an independent charity committed to protecting and celebrating Somerset and Devon's rich heritage.

'Captured in Time: The Art of Harry Frier' is one of two temporary exhibitions at the museum this spring, with illustrations by Time Team artist Victor Ambrus on show from April 23rd April to July 2nd.



TAUNTON Castle by Harry Frier and above Tone Bridge

To advertise in View from the Blackdown Hills contact Alex Phryce-Jones on 01297 35750 email [alex@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:alex@tindlenews.co.uk) Send your news stories to [lisa@pemedia.co.uk](mailto:lisa@pemedia.co.uk)

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# Val moves on after 14 years with the BHBA

AFTER 14 years Val Baker will be stepping down as co-ordinator of the BHBA.

Val has played a key role in building the BHBA from small beginnings to the successful membership organisation that it currently is.

A statement on the BHBA website said:

## Road used as a rat run

A CLAYHIDON parishoner has asked the local council to let one of the village's roads to fall into disrepair so that it can no longer be used as a 'rat run' by delivery drivers.

A resident told the council it was often used as a shortcut by delivery drivers, driving at considerable speed. He asked whether the road could be left to degenerate so that the drivers would no longer use it and only local parishioners, driving slowly and cautiously, would continue to use it.

While the parish council sympathised with his concerns, he was advised that he should report any accident/incidents to police by calling 101.

"We can't thank her enough for the care and dedication she has shown to the members."

"With an exciting programme of events planned for the coming year we are seeking an individual who is proactive and self-motivated to take up the mantle."

# Bumper summer of events

THE Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is 25 years old this June.

And to celebrate there will be more than 60 Silver Jubilee activities on offer throughout the year.

These include heritage walks and talks; natural history activities to help you discover and look after the wildlife on the hills; events for all the family, as well as some unusual walks including stargazing, finding and tasting gastronomic mushrooms and singing.

Find out more at [www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk) or by picking up a bumper 25th Anniversary events programme in local pubs, shops and post offices.

A spokesperson for the Blackdown Hills AONB said: "We are really delighted that Otter Brewery, Otter Valley Dairy Ice Cream, Ferne Animal Sanctuary and Corymoor Mohair Socks are joining us in the celebrations by sponsoring our anniversary.

"Otter Brewery will be brewing up a tasty summer ale, Blackdown Beauty, to help us celebrate. The brewery has generously agreed to donate 5p from every pint sold to the Blackdown Hills Countryside Fund.

"You can sample a pint or two in local pubs from May onwards.

"If you like delicious locally produced ice cream, you can drop into the Otter Valley Ice Cream summerhouse at Monkton during the summer, where you will be able to try their special Silver Jubilee ice cream, whipped up in honour of our anniversary. Otter Valley Dairy have kindly agreed to donate 1p from every scoop sold to the Countryside Fund.



## Bowls club open day

DUNKESWELL Bowls club are desperate for new members.

A plea from the group said: "Calling all those (male and female) who like fresh air, gentle exercise, and who like to be sociable. Ideal if you are single. Come along to our open day on May 7th and meet our friendly members and try out some bowling from 1.30pm - 4.30pm followed by a splendid tea."

"Various sized bowls would be available to try, just wear flat bottomed shoes."

"Contact Tom Williams on 01404891799 for more information."

## Successful craft fair

THE Friends of St Mary's, Hemyock have held a successful craft fair at the parish hall.

A steady stream of visitors were able to buy goods from a variety of stalls including art work, handbags, jewellery, knitted and needlework items, woodcraft, hair accessories and sheepskin rugs.

There was also a stall featuring a family history group recently set up in the village which drew many peoples attention.

Bacon butties, toasted teacakes and cake were available throughout the day making sure no one was hungry and giving buyers the chance to chat to friends.

# Somerset hedge photo competition returns

THE Somerset Hedge Group has launched its 2016 digital photographic competition.

The competition follows successful events held every two years since 2008.

Winners will receive cash prizes at a presentation evening in November 2016.

With sponsorship from the Campaign to Protect Rural England, the Blackdown Hills and Mendip Hills AONBs and Marshall Agroecology Ltd, this compe-

tition will run during the year until the beginning of October 2016. Generous prize money will be available for two classes: Open and Junior (under 15).

The competition is for amateur photographers with a maximum of three entries per person. Digital images only. The closing date for entries is October 1st 2016.

So take your camera into the Somerset countryside and try to capture some of the fascinating interactions between people and our wonderful hedgerows across

the county - in frost, spring growth, summer sunshine or autumn tints.

For an entry form and competition rules, go to [www.somerset-hedgegroup.org.uk](http://www.somerset-hedgegroup.org.uk) and print off a form.

The Somerset Hedge Group Secretary is Tony Serjeant, Exmoor National Park TSerjeant@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk Entries to Dr Jon Marshall: [jon\\_marshall@agroecol.co.uk](mailto:jon_marshall@agroecol.co.uk)

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# Blackdowns clubs and organisations

## Bishopswood Ladies

AS in other years, the March meeting of Bishopswood Ladies was replaced by the annual dinner, this year held at Pickering golf club, and attended by members, partners and friends.

Good food and lively conversation provided a very enjoyable evening for all.

The main raffle prize, a hamper of goodies, was won by Pamela Bamber. On behalf of all the members Victoria Southcott thanked Rosemary Robson and Mary Gusterson for organising this most agreeable event.

The normal activities had taken place during the past month. The skittlers played Henrietta Sumperton's team at the Sidmouth Arms where a jolly evening resulted in a win for the Ladies. The Bells are practising for performances which they will give in April. The ramblers broke with tradition and had a local morning walk, ending up at the York Inn Churchinford, for lunch. Surprisingly, the walk was blessed with excellent weather, dry and sunny, in contrast to recent days. The scrabble group continues to meet on Monday afternoons.

Next month's speaker will be Kay Townsend, who will talk about "My Life on the Fairground". Visitors will be very welcome.

## Blackdown Hills Gardening Club

At the February meeting of the BHGC held at Churchinford Village Hall the guest speaker was the award winning garden designer Marion Dale.

Marion specialises in rejuvenating existing gardens as well as turning bare plots into new outdoor living spaces. The subject of her talk was "Designing with Plants", how to achieve your dream garden using colour, texture, shape, and style. Starting with style, the options include formal villa, cottage, low maintenance and wild flower to name a few.

Marion explained that she adopts a plant filtering process once the outline theme and design are agreed taking into consideration the soil type, the available light, the space to be filled and the role of the planting. To this was added seasonal interest, wildlife, screening and established planting principles such as a colour scheme, harmony planting and repetition in borders.

A controlling factor is cost but by clever choice of plants she has found a solution for a range of budgets.

The images of the projects she has worked on demonstrated what can be achieved in both

large and small schemes.

As ever the question and answer session was most informative. Marion did have to admit however that so far altitude had not been a factor she had been asked to take into account, but said that if she was invited back she would consider the effect of being at 800 feet in the Blackdown Hills.

Refreshments were enjoyed and the raffle drawn before the meeting closed.

## Clayhidon Friends

THE Clayhidon Friends were delighted welcome back Jude Zebedee who gave an illustrated talk on the completion of her round the world journey on a bicycle.

Her first trip in 2012 took her from the UK across Europe and Asia, then after a flight to Anchorage, down through the USA and two thirds of South America.

Jude's second leg began in Santiago, and with knowledge of some Spanish, sallied forth on her trusty bicycle, Norma, for Cape Horn. The roads she travelled varied between long, straight, empty motorways to rocky tracks, many depicted in Jude's photos.

They also saw magnificent mountains, glaciers, places and buildings of interest, and some unusual spots where Jude pitched her little tent at night. She experienced

wonderful hospitality from local people, and made friends with other touring cyclists.

The occasional time-off to visit "tourist" attractions added to her trip, and once Jude reached Tierra del Fuego, the southern most tip, she took advantage of the last available ticket for a boat trip to Antarctica for 10 days.

Once again, beautiful photos showed amazing snow scenes, calving icebergs and lots of penguins. Jude even borrowed the ship's bike so she could take a ride on the snow.

The final stretch of Jude's adventurous journey was up the east coast of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil to Rio de Janeiro where a day on Copacabana beach was a must, and a trip up to the huge statue of Jesus which overlooks the city.

Once again, members were amazed at Jude's fearless spirit, and the physical strength required to complete such a fantastic journey.

Thanks went to Jude for a fascinating evening.

New members to the group are always welcome.

Details from Anne on 01823 680086.

success, enjoyed, and with a profit of £1. They'd won at skittles, another good evening. The interest groups gave out dates, and further on members were reminded about the trip to Kew, and also to Cardiff. There's also going to be a celebratory tea when fellow WI member, the Queen, has her 90th birthday.

The speaker had been taken ill, so a 'Talkathon' was organised where matters pertaining to the WI were open for discussion. The membership has increased, so this was timely. Papers and articles were available for new members, many will be going to Wilton Lodge to see round, and to learn what is on offer at the WI.

Then a fierce no-holds-barred battle took place, in the form of a Beetle drive. Any idea of 'relaxation' went out the window.

## Hemyock WI

THE March Meeting of Hemyock WI took place in Forbes Lounge where President Lyn Taylor welcomed members and a visitor.

Lyn said the Quiz at Broadhembury had been enjoyable but neither of Hemyock's teams went through to the finals.

Lyn also said the meal at Petrocs College had been oversubscribed so 15 members would be going to the Blue Ball instead.

Names were confirmed to go to the group meeting at Uplowman.

Three will go to the spring council meeting in Torquay and two are going to Crwys Morchard for the 'New Speakers' meeting.

Lyn then introduced David Pugsley who came to give his latest talk entitled 'The Judge who

Shot the Doctor'. This all took place on Haldon Race Course on May 10th in 1833.

Dr Hennis was a popular Exeter doctor who supposedly upset Sir John Jefford who had stopped off in Exeter on his way to Plymouth. The doctor thought he had better accept the challenge or he would be thought a coward.

Dr Ennis collapsed from the gunshot wounds and was rushed back to Exeter, while Sir John Jefford hastened to Plymouth and made his escape. The doctor died and his grave can be found in the Churchyard in St Sidwells Street in Exeter.

The competition was for Easter biscuits and was won by Fay. Brenda came second and Wendy third. So Fay will be making the Easter biscuits for the group meeting competition, later in February. The flower competition was won by Julie with an orchid. Lyn presented Cindy with the prize for most points in the 'Flower of the Month' through 2015.

Brenda won the prize for most points in the 'Monthly Competition'.

The next meeting will be on April 5th when Karen and Sue will talk about their 'Denman Experience'. Jennie Roberts, a County Adviser, will also be there, so will help with the annual meeting.

The competition will be for a photograph of a single flower taken by the exhibitor, as well as a home grown flower.

Hemyock WI meets in Forbes Lounge on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Visitors are very welcome.

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WELL what a winter, water, water every were, I know we are on a hill and there were people a lot worse off than us but it still was very hard to do anything on the land.

The weather has not benefited the older trees either, as water logged ground has made them vulnerable to wind blow, together with water ingress into damaged limbs.

The Woodland Association's AGM was last week, and there was a lot of positive discussions, mainly about having more free and discounted events to attract more members. Please keep an eye on the web site for new and exciting events coming soon, [www.woodbiz.co.uk](http://www.woodbiz.co.uk).

The Blackdown woodland fair will not be running this year, not for any particular reason other than giving a years break to all the volunteers, helpers and workers who over the past few years have given a lot of their time to put the fair on, but we will be back in 2017. We are running a living tree grading course here on April 20th (see website) discounted to members. It's all about knowing the value of your standing timber, and grading your trees while they are alive.

The Blackdown Hills Trust together with the Blackdown Hills AONB are bringing out a "but-

terfly identification card" which will be pocket sized and will have information on how to identify the seven most rare butterflies on the Blackdown Hills.

They will be available from local pubs/village shops for free and will have contact details where you can register your sighting. This will help Butterfly Conservation to build a better picture of these rare species.

There now is grant support for woodland creation under Countryside Stewardship. This opened for applications in February with important improvements to the scheme.

Applicants who wish to create new woodland are encouraged to apply for support of up to £6,800/ha and yearly woodland creation maintenance support for eligible applicants of £200/ha for 10 years. Individual applications will need to deliver against biodiversity and/or water objectives (improving water quality or reducing flood risk). This is a very useful grant and will help with the shortage of new woodland creation. Look on the Forestry Commission's website.

All we need now is a dry spring and a good growing season.

By John Greenshields  
[parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk](mailto:parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk)

## Bladown Hills Woodland Association

# Looking froward to some drier weather in spring

# Blackdowns clubs and organisations

## Smeatharpe WI

SMEATHARPE WI would like to meet you.

Smeatharpe WI was founded in 1942 when the village, and our larger area, presented a very different picture to the one we see today. Many WIs were being founded at that time to support the men in their war work, to 'keep the home fires burning' and to help the war effort in the preserving of produce when food was in short supply.

Other local WIs have now closed, such as Churchinford and very recently Upottery, while others have left the WI umbrella to become ladies' social groups.

The current membership covers a wide area from Taunton to Honiton via all the villages in between, and includes women from all walks of life.

They meet in Smeatharpe Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month in January and August (to allow for absences over New Year

and at the Honiton Show respectively) in the morning of the first Thursday in February for a coffee morning, and for the rest of the year on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Members also engage with the community by catering at the 'Skills of the Hills' hedging competition in March, and at 'Carols under the Stars' in December, and frequently at other events in between.

They have a big outing each summer on which other halves are invited; in recent years these have included Monkey World, Tyntesfield, and the Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth. They have regular supper clubs, monthly whist evenings, a card-making group, skittles team and theatre outings. The next theatre trip will be to see 'Chicago' in Bristol in July.

At the last meeting the subject was 'Easter Crafts' with a choice of projects so even the least crafty amongst us could go home with something

effective. Some made felted and decorated or decoupage eggs, others 'apple blossom' twigs, and the more ambitious made leaf bowls to be filled with daffodils and moss later. Thanks went to Geraldine Field and her helpers for organising that.

The next meeting on April 7th will be the AGM with a quiz, while on May 5th the talk will be about the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

New members are very much welcome. If any women out there are new to the area and want to start making some contacts, or have been affected by closure of their local group and miss the social interaction, members are more than happy to 'buddy you up' with a WI neighbour who can bring you to your first meeting, show you the ropes, and introduce you to people. Just give our secretary Virginia Roach a call on 01404 601489 for further information.

## Blackdown Hills Transition Group

WE all are used to putting rubbish into a bin at home and recycling as much material as we can into our "doorstep" recycling bins collected by the councils on a regular basis. In this case we are paying in an indirect manner for the removal and ultimate disposal of our rubbish funded via part of our Council Tax payments

However, who pays for the rubbish thrown away into the hedgerows and roadside? Much of this is fast food packaging, soft drinks cans and empty alcohol bottles. The poor taxpayer has to pick up the tab and cough up to ultimately recycle or dispose of it.

But is this fair and why should it be the financial responsibility of the hard-pressed taxpayer to get rid of someone else's rubbish?

Perhaps the time for some radical actions are necessary to make the producer or the consumer of these products pay. If fast food containers were charged with a meaningful deposit, the people who eat this could maybe be persuaded to return the packaging to the shop and thence on to centralised

recycling at an appropriate facility. Alternatively all packaging for food, drinks bottles and other packaging could be identified by RFID markers (these are small electronic devices which are cheap and have embedded information about where the item is from).

Items which were deliberately thrown away as littering could then be identified by their unique "signature" identifier and the original producer of the item cross charged for its disposal.

Who pays? You should decide and should ask your local councillors and MP's this very question.

Blackdown Hills Transition and Honiton Transition Group also hosts "View and Chew" every third Thursday of the month at the Beehive Centre, Honiton. On April 14th the film being shown is "Growth-busters". The cafe/bar will be open for drinks and snacks from 6.30pm with the start of the film around 7pm.

Neil Arnold  
Blackdown Hills Transition Group

## Community rallies to rid parish of litter

A TEAM of around 20 volunteers recovered a mini-mountain of beer cans, soft drinks bottles, cardboard coffee cups, plus masses of plastic and bizarrely a large pile of used tea bags, during a litterpick around Clayhidon.

Someone even found a soggy £10 note – and donated it to the Big Breakfast in aid of Cancer Research.

Not absolutely everywhere was covered but organiser and parish councillor Alison Weekes estimates a good 80 per cent of the parish has been cleared.

She said: "And most of these lovely volunteers are prepared to do this on an ongoing basis, which they should be thanked for. However we all wish people would just realise how selfish it is to chuck a can or sweet wrapper out of their car window."

Volunteers included Sandra and Rosie Aldworth, Maureen, Nicola and Caroline Bendle, Yvonne Roth, Geoff and Jenny Stevens, Judy Hutt, Caroline



JUST a few of Clayhidon's clean-up volunteers and a small sample of what they picked up from parish lanes, roadside ditches and hedges

King, Anne Langford, parish councillor Sue Hay, the Redwood family from Hidewood Farm, Susan Annett and Richard Brown, Val and George Slabbert, Gareth Weekes and The Wellington

Scouts (thanks to Nicky Woodgate), but more are always needed.

Alison said: "I want to say a huge thank you to all of them on behalf of us all in Clayhidon"



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# Escape to the Country end up in Luppitt

by Peter Hodges

DEVON'S largest producer of cask conditioned ales was featured on a BBC's long running daytime house-hunting show.

Last year Otter Brewery, based in the Luppitt, near Honiton, caught the attention of researchers responsible for scouting out potential local businesses to

feature in the broadcaster's "Escape to the Country" series.

In each episode the presenter helps a couple to find their dream home in the country and lines up several possible, but very different, houses to suit their needs.

A local business that reflects the character of the search area is also featured.

Attracted by the Brewery's green credentials and family ethos, the production team selected Otter Brewery and then embarked on two days filming in July to accompany a property search centred on East Devon, led by the show's host Jonnie Irwin.

Segments were filmed inside the eco cellar, by the willow beds, which naturally treat all the waste water, and also to capture the various processes inside the brewery, for example recycling the 'spent' brewer's grains, which are then recycled to help feed local dairy herds.

Otter's Sales and Marketing Director Patrick McCaig said: "Filming for the BBC is not something we do everyday. The experience was thoroughly enjoyable and the chance to beam a little of the magic of living and working in East Devon to the rest of the country was an honour. It was fasci-



**PATRICK McCaig joins host Jonnie Irwin in a pint of Otter**

nating to see the level of detail that goes into creating just a small part of this much loved show."

OTTER Brewery has raised more than £2,500 for The Royal British Le-

gion as part of their ongoing annual support for the Poppy Appeal.

The total was reached through sales of Poppy Otter - a specially created winter beer sold in West

Country pubs throughout November and December.

Punch Taverns, who were among those selling the beer, made an additional contribution.

## New editor for Parish Pump

HEMYOCK'S parish newsletter, the Parish Pump, has a new editor.

After more than 15-years in the role, Hilary Clements has decided to step down from the role due to work commitments.

Stepping in to her shoes as editor will be James Winrow.

A spokesperson for the Parish Pump team said: "Hilary has worked exceptionally hard to ensure we all receive our copy of the Pump."

"Due to work commitments, Hilary now feels the time has come to relinquish the role of Editor and this will be taken over by James Winrow, whom we are pleased to welcome.

"The words thank you hardly seems sufficient to express the gratitude Hemyock, Clayhidon and latterly Culmstock owe Hilary, but this is what we most warmly and gratefully say and send her and her family all good wishes and much happiness and success for the future."

## Calling for applicants to join AONB management

COULD you help conserve and enhance the special landscape of the Blackdown Hills?

The Blackdown Hills AONB has a new category of member on its Management Group, the Special Appointee, and is calling for applications.

This is an opportunity to get involved in caring for one of Britain's finest landscapes and helping to direct its future.

You will need to have a love of the countryside and an interest in rural issues, as well as an understanding of the national importance of protected landscapes like the Blackdown Hills.

You will help to provide a strategic lead in the conservation and enhancement of this

important area and deliver national and local benefits.

The Blackdown Hills AONB Management Group comprises 21 members: six appointed by the local authorities; one representative from Natural England; three elected parish councillors nominated by the Blackdown Hills Parish Network; eight representatives from Partnership organisations; and three Special Appointees. These positions are non-salaried.

To find out more about becoming a Special Appointee on the Blackdown Hills AONB Management Group and how to apply, click here

Closing date for applications is noon on April 15th.

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# Festivals & Shows

*in and around the Blackdown Hills*



## The Honiton & District Agricultural Association hold their 126th show on Thursday, 4th August 2016

THE Grand Parade is one of the many highlights of the main ring activities where the day's livestock winners proudly parade. The 2016 main ring will be a hive of activity; fantastic acts including top FMX Rider Jamie Squibb, "The Sheep Show" returns to Honiton with its humorous, educational, live stage show all about sheep, 9 breeds will be present and not to miss is the sheep shearing and their "dancing sheep"! For 2016 we introduce a new "Alpaca Village", come and learn all about these fascinating animals and even purchase some goods made from Alpaca fibres. The lower field incorporates all that is countryside with hurdle making, ferret racing, a blacksmiths guild and a trip down memory lane with a vintage tractor section with over 100 vehicles on display. Honiton plays host to the West of England Hound Show, a show within a show, which attracts a huge following nationwide. There is the wonderful dog show comprising both pedigree and fun classes for the pet pooch. If chickens are your interest we have a fantastic Poultry show and sale. We have entertainment in abundance for children with Professor Twistor's Punch and Judy, as seen on the hugely popular and wildly acclaimed television series Downton Abbey or maybe a donkey ride will interest. With over 400 trade stands, including



crafts, shopping and a fabulous food hall there really is something for everyone. We have a huge and diverse range of food courts to tickle your taste buds with local caterers offering the very best produce; why not start with a delicious bacon roll lunch with a Dartmoor Farmer's Beef Burger from Kenniford and end the day with a refreshing Pimms from local Otter Brewery. Honiton prides itself on being a truly traditional agricultural show with a unique atmosphere it brings new and traditional agriculture together so make a note in the diary, 4th August, we all look forward to welcoming you. Don't forget accompanied under 16's are free. For further details on the show, trade enquires, schedules or details on becoming a member of the Association with all its benefits please contact the secretary on 01404 41794 or visit the website [www.honitonshow.co.uk](http://www.honitonshow.co.uk) or follow us on twitter @honitonshow1890.



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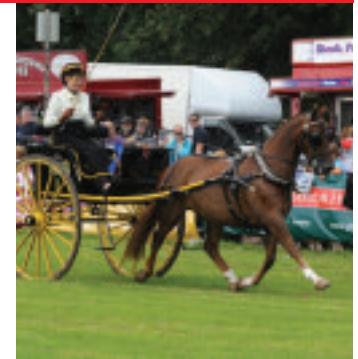


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# Devon County Show 2016

Devon's 'big day out' promises lots of food, farming and fun!

DEVON'S 'big day out' promises lots of food, farming and fun! There is only one place in Devon where on just three days of the year the county is revealed in all its glory. It's the County Show held on May 19-21 at Westpoint, Exeter, where visitors will be treated to the best of food, farming and entertainment all in one day.

"From early in the morning to late at night the showground is packed with all sorts of action," said the Show Secretary Ollie Allen. "We're all proud to be Devon and the Show celebrates the very many unique qualities which make this county such an incredible place to live and work."

Farming is at the very core of the Show and stockmen and women from the county and beyond will find out if the qualities they have identified in their livestock are recognised in the Show ring.

In the Mole Valley Farmers Main Arena there will be two attractions taking top billing - the fast and furious Shetland Pony Grand National and the thrilling Bolldog Lings motocross stunt team.

New this year is the Devon County Eye, a giant Ferris wheel where visitors will get a chance to see the showground from a totally different perspective and for visitors who like to have a go there is the chance to drive a tractor and a 4 x 4 vehicle (bring a valid driver's licence!) or, for the more eagle-eyed visitor, why not try out the art of fly fishing and archery.

There will be activities especially for youngsters and families including a Children's Farm supported by Farm Wise Devon, the 'Wheelie Wild' family trail or why not have a go at candle rolling in the bees and honey feature. So much to see and do, taste, try and buy - visitors might need more than one day to see it all!

Tickets are available online and from selected outlets.  
[www.devoncountyshow.co.uk](http://www.devoncountyshow.co.uk)



**Axe Vale Festival  
25th & 26th June 2016**



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## Caring for your pet rabbit

### Flystrike

Flystrike occurs normally during warmer weather. It is caused by flies that land on rabbits and lay eggs. It almost always starts around the rabbit's bottom as flies are attracted to faeces. The fly eggs very quickly hatch into maggots and the maggots eat the rabbit's skin and causing tissue damage and if not found in time, shock will soon follow. Badly affected rabbits may have to be put down.

To prevent flystrike: Remove all soiled bedding daily; ensure your rabbit is not being overfed, as this can result in diarrhoea, leading to a dirty bottom. Check your rabbit twice daily to ensure that it is clean and dry and disinfect the hutch every week. **Rearguard** can also be applied to your rabbit and can protect against flystrike for up to 10 weeks!

### Internal and external parasites

Worms are not generally an issue in rabbits; however a protozoan called E. Cuniculi. E.Cuniculi is a parasite that lives in the brain, eye

or kidney tissue and can be fatal. Symptoms include: head tilted to one side, balance problems, incontinence and weak back legs. It can be treated with **Panacur Rabbit** oral paste for 28 days, but response depends on duration and severity of infection.

Rabbits like cats and dog can also harbour parasites. Cheyletiella mites are responsible for a scurfy coat or 'walking dandruff' in rabbits. Fleas can live on rabbits too and can spread the disease myxomatosis. Ear mites are also common in rabbits which cause uncomfortable scabs to form in the ear canal.

### Vaccinations

Rabbits can become affected by two infectious diseases: **Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD)** and **Myxomatosis**, both of which can be fatal. Vaccinations can be given for these diseases at 8 weeks old and is advised they are repeated every 12 months. **VHD** is a virus spread by saliva and nasal secretions; passed from rabbit to rabbit or via people, clothing or objects. Signs include blood stains from nose or mouth,

high temperature, internal bleeding which can lead to liver failure.

**Myxomatosis** is a virus passed on via fleas, mites, flies and contact between rabbits, and sometimes in the hay if not sterilised. Symptoms include: puffy face, ears or eyes, fever and blindness. Sadly most rabbits die within 10-14 days.

### Neutering

**Neutering is recommended for all pet rabbits, not being used for breeding.** Neutering reduces fighting between rabbits, avoids unwanted pregnancies and prevents womb cancer in females. 80% of females by the age of 8 develop womb cancer. Rabbits can be neutered from the age of 16 weeks.



## BBC Countryfile Live

TV favourite at beautiful Blenheim Palace  
3 days from £209.00, 5 August 2016

'Britain's Biggest Day Out in the Countryside', held in the spectacular grounds of Churchill's birthplace, will feature appearances from programme stars, livestock displays, 'Adam's Farm' showcasing presenter Adam Henson's rare breeds, a 'Village Green' featuring 'Britain's Biggest Pub Garden' and biggest ice cream parlour - a 'Farming in Action' exhibition and stalls offering the finest country fare. Don't miss this wonderful summertime treat!

#### Highlights & inclusions

- Admission to Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace
- A visit to Stratford-upon-Avon
- Two night's bed and English breakfast accommodation at a good quality hotel in the Midlands areas
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager

## Tall Ships in Antwerp

A fun-filled maritime break  
4 days from £279.00, 8 July 2016

2016 is the Diamond Anniversary of the Tall Ships Race, and these stunning vessels, with their graceful lines, towering masts and colourful bunting, will create a truly breathtaking and memorable sight in the historic maritime city of Antwerp.

#### Highlights & inclusions

- Visits to Antwerp to see the Tall Ships, including the Parade of Sail
- Discover historic Ghent and Bruges
- Three nights' three-star bed and breakfast hotel accommodation in the Brussels area
- Coach travel from the local area and return Channel crossings by ferry/ Eurotunnel
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager

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## The Go Between - Starring Michael Crawford

Superb value London West End show break  
2 days from £123.00, 17 September 2016

Michael Crawford returns to the West End stage as Leo Colston in this spellbinding adaptation of LP Hartley's novel.

#### Highlights & inclusions

- A Saturday evening ticket for The Go Between (upgrades available)
- Leisure time in a four-star luxury hotel
- Free time in London for shopping and sightseeing
- One night's bed and full English breakfast in a four-star hotel in Greater London
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager



## The View from The Shard & Royal Greenwich

London's highest vantage point  
2 days from £139.00, 31 July & 16 October 2016

Enjoy unrivalled views across London's skyline during this visit to 'The View from the Shard'. Includes a visit to 'royal' Greenwich.

#### Highlights & inclusions

- Entrance to 'The View from the Shard'
- Visit to Greenwich
- One night's bed and buffet breakfast accommodation at the four-star Thistle City
- Barbican hotel
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager



## Wimbledon 2016

The iconic event of any summer  
2 days from £159.00, 9 & 10 July 2016

This is your chance to soak up the unique atmosphere of the world's premier Grand Slam tennis championships over the 'Finals' weekend.

#### Highlights & inclusions

- A reserved seat on No.1 Court at Wimbledon for the finals of the Junior and Senior events
- Visit to Windsor with the opportunity to visit Windsor Castle
- One night's bed and continental breakfast
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# what's on in and around the Blackdown Hills

## Rome and Venice come to Wellington

In the 12 years since Blackdowns Early Music Projects' (BEMP) first foray into choral workshop weekends, Catherine and Geoffrey Bass have hosted 26 projects in and around their home in Culmstock, at the west end of the Blackdowns Hills.

Each project has culminated in a public concert, many performed in and around the Hills, where loyal audiences have been delighted to hear early music, some of it performed for the first time in centuries, by skilled singers under the direction of renowned conductors.

The scope of each BEMP project varies in size and complexity, from A cappella groups of just 12 singers performing in a suitable local venue to Grand Baroque extravaganzas in Exeter Cathedral supported by internationally renowned string, wind and brass ensembles of period instruments and including vocal soloists from groups such as The Sixteen, Tallis Scholars, I Fagiolini and Stile Antico.

In April and May there are two BEMP projects to look forward to, each led by principal director, Jan-Joost van Elburg. The first is on Sunday, April 10th at 6pm in St

John the Baptist (Parish) Church in Wellington.

This programme is called Cantantibus organis, featuring music written around the turn of the 17th century in Rome, by Palestrina and his pupils in the Cappella Giulia of St Peter's Basilica, and in Venice by Giovanni Gabrieli and others in the equally famous Basilica of St Mark.

All the music is written for multiple choirs of voices and instruments. BEMP is delighted to be welcoming the internationally renowned virtuoso English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble to join the singers for the concert.

Tickets (full price £15, Students £8, under 12s free) are available now through BEMP's website [www.blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk](http://www.blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk), from Taunton Visitor Centre and Wellington Community Office, or at the door.

In May, Jan-Joost van Elburg will return on tour with the Dutch choir Coqu, who are based in Utrecht; BEMP is hosting their visit and is pleased to be able to offer two free performances of vocal music at 7pm on Friday, May 6th (North Curry Church) and Saturday, May 7th in Wellington's Parish Church.

Coqu's programme is called Hol-



ENGLISH Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble to join the singers in concert

land meets England and contrasts the music of 16th, 17th and 20th century composers of the two countries, Clemens with Byrd, Sweelinck with Purcell and Manneke with Britten.

For more information about Blackdowns Early Music Projects, email [blackdownsearlymusic@gmail.com](mailto:blackdownsearlymusic@gmail.com) or visit [www.blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk](http://www.blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk) or find us at [www.facebook.com/BlackdownsEarlyMusic](http://www.facebook.com/BlackdownsEarlyMusic).

### diary dates

HEMYOCK SINGERS: This year's Spring concert will again be held at St Mary's church, Hemyock, on Friday, April 22nd and will include Vivaldi's Magnificat and a number of short pieces including The Heavens Are Telling the Glory of God, Lift Up Your Heads O Ye Gates and the Hallelujah Chorus. Concert starts at 7.30pm.

CLAYHIDON PARISH HALL: Dallahan - A breath taking musical journey, with unique arrangements of original music and traditional Irish tunes.

April, 13th at Clayhidon Parish Hall. A Villages in Action event. Tickets £8 (£6 concessions) For tickets call Caroline Bendle on 01823 681047.

STOCKLAND: The Queensgate Singers are a fresh a cappella ensemble from London who are all under 30.

They perform well-loved choral gems by composers such as Elgar, Parry, and Vaughn Williams. At St Michael and All Angels Church, Stockland on April 3rd at 3pm. Tickets £8.

To include your Diary Date in the paper email the details to [alex@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:alex@tindlenews.co.uk).

Don't forget to include the date, time, place, organiser's name and a brief description of the event.



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**Blagdon Hill**

**£349,950**

Large detached mature bungalow with lovely size gardens to the front and rear along with a good size driveway leading to the detached garage. Inside the property is extremely well presented with a 'modern feel' to it yet retaining many features from the past, including original internal doors. Accommodation comprises: Ent Porch, Ent Hall, Sitting Room, 2/3 bedrooms (master en suite), large eat-in kitchen with Raeburn cooker & shower room. Outside is a good size garden backing onto open fields and to the front a well-stocked garden with borders and level lawn. Circa .25 Acre plot.



**West Buckland**

**Price from £340,000**

An exciting opportunity to live within an exclusive private gated development of just four Lodges set in grounds and communal of approaching 5 acres. There is a small lake and hard tennis court included in the communal area. The properties were built to a high standard throughout and are located on the Blackdown Hills with generous private gardens. Excellent access to the M5 Motorway and the A38. Extremely versatile accommodation (1,800 sq ft) No onward chain.

After a long and wet winter season it's a delight to see new life all around us springing up across the Blackdown Hills.

With this in mind the property market is also showing signs of movement & as a result we are in urgent need of all homes in all price ranges for excellent buyers.

If you are considering selling your home and would like a free valuation from a highly qualified, experienced & local estate agent call Timothy Rodgers.



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Broadway- £279,950

A charming 3 bedroom modern cottage style property in the sought after village of Broadway, close to the local amenities. The property comprises: Entrance hall, sitting room with multi fuel stove, kitchen, cloakroom, conservatory, Master bedroom with en suite, 2 further bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, driveway with stone garage. EPC D.



Chardstock - £385,000

A rare opportunity to acquire a spacious detached house located in the heart of the popular Devon village of Chardstock. Accommodation comprises : three double bedrooms, master en-suite, bathroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen / breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom, gardens, garage and ample parking. The property benefits from central heating and double glazing.

## London Property Exhibitions 2016

As members of the Guild of Professional Estate Agents, our properties are marketed through the Guild's prestigious offices in Park Lane London throughout the year. However in addition we hold regular Somerset Property Exhibitions during which we completely take over and staff the Guild's offices. This provides us with a unique opportunity to sit down with London Buyers and discuss their individual requirements, effectively taking our property portfolio to London.



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